

## **THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY**

### **I. THE BEGINNING OF CHRISTIANITY**

#### **A. JEWS AND THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

- LIVED IN JUDAEA, MODERN ISRAEL, BELIEVED IN ONE GOD
- BELIEVED GOD WOULD SEND A "MESSIAH" OR SAVIOR WHICH WOULD GIVE THEM FREEDOM
- 66-70AD JEWISH REVOLT AGAINST ROMANS. ROMANS PILLAGE CITY OF JERUSALEM
- RABBIS – SCHOLARS WHO INTERPRET SCRIPTURE BECOME THE LEADERS OF THE JEWISH CONGREGATION
- ROMAN SUPPRESSION OF THE JEWS HELP WITH THE RISE OF CHRISTIANITY

#### **B. THE TEACHINGS OF JESUS**

- CLAIMED TO BE THE SON OF GOD
- SOME IN THE JEWISH FAITH VIEWED HIM AS THE "MESSIAH"
- PERFORMED MIRACLES, DEFENDED THE POOR AND TRAVEL COUNTRYSIDE TEACHING
- HIS WORKS ARE RECORDED IN THE BIBLE
- TAUGHT LOVE FOR ONE ANOTHER AND GOD, AND FORGIVENESS

#### **C. THE DEATH OF JESUS**

- ROMANS FEARED JESUS WOULD LEAD UPRISING
- JEWISH LEADERS JEALOUS OF HIS POWER
- JESUS WAS CRUCIFIED AND DIES
- NEW TESTAMENT IN BIBLE SAYS HE ROSE FROM THE DEAD
- CHRISTIANS BELIEVE THAT JESUS'S DEATH AND RISING FROM THE DEAD WILL SAVE THEM IN THE AFTER LIFE

## **II. THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY**

- DISCIPLES OF JESUS FELT THAT GOD'S FINAL JUDGEMENT WAS COMING SOON
- AS LIFE IN THE ROMAN EMPIRE BECAME MORE DIFFICULT THE APPEAL OF CHRISTIANITY SPREAD
- IT WAS ACCEPTED BY RICH AND POOR ALIKE
- AT FIRST THE ROMAN VIEWED THE CHRISTIANS AS A JEWISH SECT
- BUT AS THE CHRISTIAN SPOKE OUT AGAINST THE ROMAN'S RELIGION THE ROMAN SOON STARTED TO PUT CHRISTIANS TO DEATH
- KILLING THE CHRISTIANS FAILED TO STOP THE SPREAD OF CHRISTIANITY
- FINALLY UNDER THE FIVE GOOD EMPERORS CHRISTIANITY WAS ACCEPTED BY ROMAN LAW AS ITS OWN RELIGION

## **III. THE ROMANS ADOPT CHRISTIANITY**

- IN THE 300S AD ROMAN EMPORER COSTANTINE DECLARED SUPPORT FOR CHRISTIANITY AND WAS BAPTIZED.
- IN 391 AD EMPORER THEODOSIUS MADE CHRISTIANITY THE OFFICIAL RELIGION OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE
- THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH BECAME ORGANIZED WITH PRIESTS, BISHOPS AND A POPE
- POPE (LATIN WORD MEANING "FATHER") WAS IN CHARGE OF THE CHURCH
- THEY CLAIM THEIR AUTHORITY CAME FROM JESUS